

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 03007 090848Z

13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 AF-10 PM-07

NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01 INR-10 PRS-01 L-03 ACDA-19

OMB-01 DRC-01 /134 W

----- 049652

O 090820Z OCT 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3929

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 3007

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS EG IS

SUBJECT: CURRENT EGYPTIAN MILITARY SITUATION

1. USINT SOURCE HAS PROVIDED US WITH FOLLOWING INFORMATION GAINED FROM FRIEND IN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. INFORMATION WAS ACQUIRED AS OF P 0100 LOCAL TIME OCTOBER 9.

2. AS OF NIGHTFALL OCTOBER 8, EGYPTIANS HELD A LINE RUNNING FROM A POINT ABOUT 30 KILOMETERS EAST OF PORT FOUAD IN NORTHERN SECTOR TO 10 KILOMETERS EAST OF CANAL IN MIDDLE SECTOR TO 20 KILOMETERS EAST OF PORT TAWFIQ IN SOUTHERN SECTOR. 30,000 PLUS EGYPTIAN TROOPS HAVE BEEN PLACED TO EAST OF CANAL. ABOUT 450 TANKS ARE ALSO ON CANAL'S EAST BANK. DESPITE ISRAELI CLAIMS, ONLY ONE OF 13 BRIDGES WAS TOTALLY DESTROYED DURING ISRAELI ATTACKS. THREE OTHERS WERE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 03007 090848Z

DAMAGED, BUT WERE REPAIRED WITHIN SIX HOURS TIME. ALL

OTHERS REMAIN UNTOUCHED.

3. DAMAGE CREATED BY ISRAELI AIRCRAFT RAIDS HAS BEEN MINOR WITH EXCEPTION OF PORT SAID. ISRAELI AIR ATTACKS ON EGYPTIAN MILITARY AIRFIELDS OCTOBER 7 WERE DIRECTED AT BENI SUEF AND SHUBRA AL-KHIT. RUNWAY OF BENI SUEF DAMAGED, BUT HAS BEEN REPAIRED. NO AIRCRAFT DESTROYED ON GROUND. AT SHUBRA AL-KHIT, IAF WAS ENGAGED BY EAF. ISRAELI AIRCRAFT WERE ABLE TO FIRE TWO AIR TO GROUND MISSILES ONLY. ONE EXPLODED HARMLESSLY AWAY FROM AIRPORT, THE OTHER LANDED NEAR GROUP OF FARMERS IN NEARBY FIELD, KILLING FIVE AND WOUNDING 15.

4. ISRAELI AIRCRAFT RAIDS ON PORT SAID AREA LAST NIGHT DID CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE INSIDE TOWN PROPER.

5. THERE HAS BEEN NO ISRAELI ATTEMPT TO PLACE FORCES ON WESTERN BANK OF CANAL. EGYPTIAN MILITARY COMMAND IS READY FOR SUCH A POSSIBILITY.

6. CASUALTIES. EGYPTIANS HAVE SUFFERED THREE TO FOUR THOUSAND KILLED AND APPROXIMATELY SAME NUMBER WOUNDED. THIS HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN HAPPY SURPRISE; MILITARY COMMAND WAS PREPARED TO SUSTAIN AS MANY AS 80,000 CASUALTIES IN OPERATION.

7. PRISONERS. EGYPTIANS HAVE CAPTURED 8 ISRAELI PILOTS AND 125 SOLDIERS.

8. PLANS. ON EVENING OF OCTOBER 8, EGYPTIAN TROOPS WERE SENT TO SHARM EL SHEIKH BY BOAT. THEY ANTICIPATE FIGHTING FOR SHARM WILL START TODAY. EGYPTIANS ALSO INTEND TO LAUNCH AIR ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAEL PROPER TODAY, OCTOBER 9, USING LONG-RANGE Bomber FORCE. VIRTUALLY ALL EGYPTIAN BOMBERS HAVE BEEN HELD IN RESERVE FOR THIS ACTION. THEY WERE AUGMENTED ON OCTOBER 9 BY ARRIVAL OF 35 ALGERIAN BOMBERS. (COMMENT: AMERICAN SOURCE INFORMED US YESTERDAY THAT HE SAW FOUR IL-28 BEAGLES AT CAIRO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.) UNTIL YESTERDAY THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF RAIDING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CAIRO 03007 090848Z

CIVILIAN TARGETS, BUT EXTENSIVE DAMAGE CAUSED TO PORT SAID HAS BROUGHT GREAT PRESSURE ON MILITARY TO TARGET ISRAELI CITIES.

9. INITIAL MILITARY GOAL OF EGYPTIAN ARMY WAS TO SEIZE 30 TO 40 KILOMETERS ON EAST BANK OF CANAL-- UP TO AND INCLUDING MOUNTAIN PASSES. THEY WERE PREPARED TO HOLD THIS POSITION UNTIL SECURITY COUNCIL OR

OTHER POLITICAL ACTION COULD CREATE CEASEFIRE. THIS
GOAL HAS NOW BEEN REVISED UPWARD. SUCCESSES OF
EGYPTIAN CROSSING AND ADVANCE HAS ENCOURAGED SADAT TO
AIM FOR TOTAL RETURN OF ALL SINAI.

10. COMMENT: WE ARE UNABLE TO EVALUATE THIS REPORT.
BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONSIDER CHECKING THIS CARE-
FULLY AGAINST AVAILABLE FACTS AND ENSUING DEVELOP-
MENTS, SINCE SOURCE HAS PROMISED FURTHER INFORMATION
EVERY MORNING.
SMITH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CAIRO03007
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SMITH
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731044/aaaabggr.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Dec-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <04-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CURRENT EGYPTIAN MILITARY SITUATION
TAGS: MOPS, EG, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005